



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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Regulatory Branch

333 Market Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-2197

PERMIT MANAGER: John Knudsen Phone: 415-977-8437/E-mail: jknudsen@spd.usace.army.mil

**1. INTRODUCTION:** Mr. Ilan Silberstein, c/o TDG Engineers, 3289 Regional Parkway, Santa Rosa, California 95403 (contact: Mr. Charlie Traboulsi at 707-577-0425 or Mr. Charlie Patterson at 925-938-5263) proposes to establish a wetland mitigation bank, the Hale bank, on a 75-acre parcel of land located directly northeast of the intersection of Todd and Llano Roads southwest of the city of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California (Figures 1 and 2). No discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, is planned during the construction of the bank's wetlands. However, possessors of wetland fill authorizations pursuant to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) could satisfy a portion or all of their mitigation requirements at the proposed bank.

**2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The bank site currently supports 18 acres of seasonal wetlands, consisting of both vernal pool and seasonally wet swale habitat (Figure 3). These wetlands would be preserved. The proponent would construct an additional 17.7 acres of seasonal wetlands (Figure 4). The existing, constructed, and restored wetlands would be sold in 0.05 acre increments to persons requiring wetland mitigation as a condition for a Department of the Army, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a California Department of Fish and Game, or other permit. The bank would be administered pursuant to a Bank Enabling Instrument between Mr. Ilan Silberstein, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

New seasonal wetlands totaling 11 acres would be constructed in upland regions of the site. An additional 12 acres of seasonal wetlands

disturbed by historic agricultural activities would be restored by modifying existing topography to conform with patterns previously found on the site (Figure 3). Of the 12 acres of restored wetlands, the bank would be authorized to sell 6.7 acres as construction/restoration credits.

Dominant vegetation found in the existing wetlands on the site includes rye grass (*Lolium* sp), semaphore grass (*Pleuropogon californicus*), western manna grass (*Glyceria occidentalis*), and barley (*Hordeum* sp). Subdominant vegetation found includes rabbit-foot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*), slender rush (*Juncus tenuis*), brown-head rush (*Juncus phaeocephalus*), common downingia (*Downingia concolor*), smooth goldfields (*Lasthenia glaberrima*), coyote thistle (*Eryngium aristulatum*), popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys bracteatus* and *P. stipitatus*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*), and loosestrife (*Lythrum* sp).

The wetlands found on the site also support populations of two federally listed endangered plant species. Colonies of Sebastopol meadowfoam (*Limnanthes vinculans*) and Baker's blennosperma (*Blennosperma bakeri*) are found in the existing wetlands. The bank would also be authorized to sell preservation credits for these species. The number of plants found in the wetlands in a typical year totals approximately 100,000 individuals. The wetlands supporting the endangered plant species would not be directly impacted by the project construction. The new wetlands to be constructed and restored would be expected to provide additional habitat for the endangered plant species. No wetlands on the site would be filled as a result of construction and restoration activities. The detailed construction, restoration, and management plan for the bank may be reviewed at our San Francisco office.

The bank's proposed service area is the Santa Rosa Plain (Figure 5).

When completed, the bank would be deeded to either the California Department of Fish and Game or another public land trust entity. An endowment fund for the long-term monitoring, maintenance, and management of the bank would be established. The wetland habitat values of the site would be anticipated to increase following wetland construction and restoration.

**3. FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Additional details may be obtained by contacting the proponent whose address is indicated in the first paragraph of this notice, or by contacting John Knudsen of our office at telephone 415-977-8437 or by email at [jknudsen@spd.usace.army.mil](mailto:jknudsen@spd.usace.army.mil). Details on any changes of a minor nature which are made in the final mitigation bank documents will be provided on request.